

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 00391 201654Z

ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 265

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NA. PINT, PEDEV

SUBJ: NAMIBIA: PRESS REPORT ON NEW FIVE-POWER

APPROACH TO SOUTH AFRICA ON MEETING DATES

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE BY DONALD ANDREW APPEARED IN THE
JANUARY 20 PRETORIA NEWS: QUOTE A NEW DATE FOR NEW
YORK " PROXIMITY" TALKS ON SWA/NAMIBIA IS EXPECTED TO BE
OFFERED TO SOUTH AFRICA WITHIN A FEW DAYS. AND, IN AN
ALL-OUT BID TO CLINCH UN-APPROVED INDEPENDENCE FOR THE
TERRITORY AND LURE THE NOW RELUCTANT SOUTH AFRICAN
FOREIGN MINISTER, MR. PIK BOTHA, TO THE UNITED STATES,
THE WEST IS CONSIDERING UPGRADING THE NEGOTIATIONS TO
A FOREIGN MINISTER SUMMIT- PROBABLY FOR BETWEEN
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PAGE 02 PRETOR 00391 201654Z

FEBRUARY 6 AND 17. INFORMED DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAY
THESE DEVELOPMENTS ARE A DEMONSTRATION OF THE SERIOUS
DESIRE BY THE FIVE WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY
COUNCIL TO SECURE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR AN
INDEPENDENT SWA/NAMIBIA. DEMANDS NY MR. BOTHA FOR
THE WEST TO PRESENT THEIR PROPOSALS WILL BE MET AS
SOON AS THESE LATEST SETTLEMENT PLANS, NOW IN DRAFT

FORM, HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE FIVE WESTERN GOVERNMENTS.
BUT MR. BOTHA WANT RECEIVE THEM TILL THE NEW DATE
HAS BEEN AGREED ON, BECAUSE THE FIVE FIRMLY BELIEVE
" PROXIMITY" TALKS ARE THE BEST WAY TO RESOLVE
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND SWAPO. THE
PERIOD BETWEEN MR. BOTHA'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE INVITATION
AND HIS LEAVING FOR NEW YORK WOULD ALLOW HIM TO
CONFER WITH THE PRIME MINISTER. THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR,
MR. JACQUES SCHRICKE, SAID YESTERDAY" PROXIMITY" TALKS
WERE PERHAPS BETTER DESCRIBED AS " PARALLEL" TALKS,
WITH THE FIVE NEGOTIATING SEPARATELY WITH SOUTH AFRICA
AND SWAPO IN THE SAME PLACE AT THE SAME TIME. BUT,
CONTRARY TO MR. BOTHA'S FEARS, THIS WOULD NOT MEAN HIS
NEGOTIATING DIRECTLY WITH SWAPO. TO ARRANGE FOR THE
FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE UNITED STATES, BRITAIN,
FRANCE, WEST GERMANY, CANADA AND SOUTH AFRICA, THE
UN SECRETARY-GENERAL(33. KURT WALDHEIM, AND THE
SWAPO LEADER, MR. SAM NUJOMA, ALL TO BE IN NEW
YORK AT THE SAME TIME FOR ABOUT THREE DAYS IS A
DIFFICULT UNDERTAKING. THE WEST FEARS THIS MOVE COULD
BE TORPEDOED BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT BEFORE THEN BY
SOUTH AFRICA OF AN ELECTION DATE FOR SWA/NAMIBIA. END QUOTE.
BOWDLER

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